IN THE CLAIMS:

No claims have been amended herein. Please note that all claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as amended. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A recombinant nucleic acid molecule produced by the action of a nucleic acid polymerase in a complementing cell comprising at least the E1A gene of an adenovirus on a precursor molecule; wherein

said ~~precursor~~ recombinant nucleic acid molecule is a recombinant nucleic acid molecule based on or derived from an adenovirus,

said precursor molecule has at least one functional inverted terminal repeat,

said precursor molecule comprises all other adenovirus derived genetic information not present in said complementing cell and necessary for replication, and

said precursor molecule is in a linear and essentially single stranded form and comprises, at the precursor molecule's 3' terminus, a recombinantly fused sequence complementary to an upstream part of the same strand of the precursor molecule, to allow said sequence and said upstream part to form base pairs and function as a start-site for said nucleic acid polymerase.

2. (Original) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said recombinant nucleic acid molecule has a functional inverted terminal repeat at each terminus.

3. (Previously Presented) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid having a hr400-404 mutation.

4. (Previously Presented) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprises an E2A ts125 mutation.

5. (Original) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprises an E2 region under the control of an inducible promoter.

6. (Previously Added) A cell comprising the recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim1.

7. (Previously Presented) A method of propagating a helper-dependent adenovirus in a complementing cell, comprising:

providing the recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 to a complementing cell; and

propagating the helper-dependent adenovirus in said complementing cell.

8. (Previously Added) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said precursor molecule lacks overlapping sequences with the nucleic acid of the complementing cell into which it is transferred, said overlapping sequences otherwise enabling homologous recombination leading to replication competent virus in the complementing cell.

9. (Previously Added) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said precursor molecule lacks a functional encapsidation signal.